



The Voice of Truth

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Lack of Knowledge

By Jimmy Pettigrew

God had a controversy with his people because there was no knowledge of Him in the land *"Hear the word of Jehovah, ye children of Israel; for Jehovah hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor goodness, nor knowledge of God in the land"* (**Hosea 4:1**). The basic for destruction was the lack of knowledge, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I also will forget thy children"* (**Hosea 4:6**).

It was not that knowledge was not available, but that they had rejected it, and it is seen as a rejection to God! Indeed, knowledge is priceless! *"Receive my instruction, and not silver; And knowledge rather than choice gold"* (**Proverbs 8:10**). The knowledge of the ways of God is always a greater possession than material wealth like silver and gold. The things of God are always best for us. Thus only *"fools hate knowledge?"* (**Proverbs 1:22**). But, *"Wise men lay up knowledge"* (**Proverbs 10:14**). *"For wisdom shall enter into thy heart, And knowledge shall be pleasant unto thy soul"* (**Proverbs 2:10**). *"For wisdom is a defence, even as money is a defence; but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom preserveth the life of him that hath it"* (**Ecclesiastes 7:12**).

God intended that knowledge play a vital role in the lives of His people. We are to be **(1)** *"filled with all knowledge"* (**Romans 15:14; Colossians 1:9**). We are to abound in knowledge (**2 Corinthians 8:7**). We are **(2)** *grow in knowledge* (**2 Peter 3:18; Colossians 1:10**). Knowledge is one of the **(3)** *Christians virtues we are to add to our lives* (**2 Peter 1:5-11**). In fact, God places such a premium on knowledge that the word "knowledge" itself is the key word of one of the epistles - **2 Peter**. In fact, God places such a premium on knowledge that He told Israel that **(4)** He desired *"Knowledge of God more than burnt offerings"* (**Hosea 6:6**).

How is your knowledge of God? *"Can you prove when and where the church was established?" "Where is Jesus' sermon on the new birth found in the New Testament?" "Who was the first Gentile convert?" "Who accompanied Paul on his first missionary tour?"* A test was conducted with a freshmen class at a College Bible department, in which 91% of those who took the examination were members of the church. Some of the results obtained from this test are interesting.

(1) 33% of the students did not know that Jonah was prophet who was on a ship bound for Tarshish and 33% did not know he preached in Nineveh.

(2) 17% Did not know Romans was the sixth book in the New Testament.

(3) 31% Did not know that Jude follows 3 John.

(4) 55% did not know who wrote 2 Timothy.

(5) 45% Did not know who wrote Revelation.

(6) 21% Did not know that Isaiah wrote Isaiah.

(7) 56% Did not know that Luke wrote Acts.

CONTINUED INSIDE...

(8) 20% Did not know that Lydia sold purple.

(9) 92% Did not know that Christ's conversation with Nicodemus on the new birth is found in the gospel of John.

(10) 87% Did not know from which cities Moses sent the spies out against Canaan.

Let us notice some of the curses and tragedies of ignorance (1) *Ignorance was one of the sins which crucified Jesus (Acts 3:17; Luke 23:34; 1 Corinthians 2:8).* (2) *Ignorance alienates one from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18).* (3) *Ignorance precipitates the establishment of one's own righteousness (Romans 10:3).* (4) *Ignorance causes the individual to err (Matthew 22:29; 2 Peter 3:1-9; Acts 17:29-30).* (5) *Ignorance leads people to wrest the scriptures to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:16).* (6) *Ignorance causes people to be destroyed (Hosea 4:6; Isaiah 5:13).* (7) *Ignorance will keep one from being converted scripturally (Matthew 13:15).* (8) *Ignorance will cause people to ultimately be lost (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Acts 17:30-31).*

With ignorance prevailing as it does among members of the body of the Lord, let us now read **Hosea 4:6** and tremble: *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee."*

BIBLE ANSWERS TO VITAL QUESTIONS

By David J. Riggs

The Bible is the absolute and final authority in all religious matters. The Bible provides the answers to every question relative to one's relationship to God and his eternal destiny. It gives the answers in such plain and understandable language that it needs no interpretation or comment from men. Every person is responsible for his own soul and must learn the truth on every vital question pertaining to eternal life.

In this essay we endeavor to give Bible references which give the answers to important questions that pertain to our souls. These answers may contradict the popular religious conceptions and may be foreign to what many have been taught. Nevertheless, it is our sincere prayer that everyone will study them with the full realization that it is the Lord speaking through His Word. Jesus said, "If you continue in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (**John 8:31-32**). Also, He said, "He that rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (**John 12:48**).

We encourage you to look up each reference in your own Bible and read it for yourself. We wish God's blessings on you in your efforts to serve Him.

WHO HAS THE COMPLETE AND FINAL AUTHORITY IN RELIGION?

1. We must hear Jesus Christ in all things. **Acts 3:22-23**
2. The government would be on His shoulders. **Isa. 9:6**
3. God speaks to us today through His Son. **Heb. 1:1-2**
4. Jesus has all authority both in heaven and on earth. **Matt. 28:18**
5. Jesus is head over all things in the church. **Eph. 1:20-23**

HOW DOES JESUS SPEAK TO US TODAY?

1. We must continue in Jesus' Word. **John 8:31-32**
2. God's Word is truth. **John 17:17**
3. The Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth. **John 16:13**
4. The apostles wrote their revelation. **Eph. 3:1-4**
5. Their writings produce the faith which brings life in the name of Jesus. **John 20:30-31**
6. The faith was once delivered to the saints. **Jude 3**

WHAT IF SOMEONE TEACHES OR HOLDS TO SOMETHING NOT FOUND IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

1. He has the curse of God on him. **Gal. 1:8-9**
2. He does not have God. **2 John 9-10**
3. He becomes destitute of the truth. **1 Tim. 6:3-5**
4. God will add to him the plagues written the His book. **Rev. 22:18-19**

WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?

1. In relation to one another, it is the body. **Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:20**
2. In relation to the world, it is the church. **Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18**
3. In relation to the Savior, it is the body of the saved. **Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23**
4. In relation to the Christ, it is those who are in Christ. **2 Cor. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:10**
5. In relation to authority, it is the kingdom bought with blood. **Col. 1:13-14; Acts 20:28**
6. In relation to the family, it is the house of God. **1 Tim. 3:13-15 Eph. 2:19**

MUST ONE BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH TO BE SAVED?

1. Jesus is the Savior of the body which is the church. **Eph. 5:23; 1:22-23** If one is not in the church, he is not of the saved.
2. If one is not in the church, he is not of those bought with the blood. **Acts 20:28**
3. If one is not of the church, he is not of the saved. **Acts 2:47**
4. Those bought with the blood make up the church as well as the kingdom. **Col. 1:13-14** If one is not in the church, he is not in the kingdom that will be delivered up. **1 Cor. 15:24**
5. The church is the house or family of God. **1 Tim. 3:13-14.** If one is not in the family or church, he is not an heir. **Gal. 4:7**

WILL GOOD PEOPLE OF ALL CHURCHES BE SAVED?

1. Not everyone, but he that doeth. **Matt. 7:21**
2. Those who act without law will be rejected. **Matt. 7:23**
3. There are many false prophets. **1 John 4:1**
4. One can believe a lie and be damned. **2 Thess. 2:11-12**
5. God does not approve of religious division. **John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:3-6**
6. Those who practice division cannot go to heaven. **Gal. 5:19-20; 1 Cor. 3:3; Rom. 16:17-18**

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. Hear and learn the gospel. **Rom. 10:17; John 6:45**
2. Believe in Jesus as the Christ. **John 6:29; 8:24; Rom. 10:10-11**
3. Repent of all sins. **Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19; 17:30**
4. Confess Christ. **Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10**
5. Be baptized. **Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21**

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. Because Christ commanded it. **Mark 16:16**
2. For (unto) the remission of sins. **Acts 2:38**
3. To wash away sins. **Acts 22:16**
4. Because Peter said that baptism saves. **1 Pet. 3:21**
5. To enter Christ. **Gal. 3:26-27**
6. To reach the atoning blood of Christ shed in his death. **Rom. 6:3-4; John 19:34**

WHAT MUST I DO TO KEEP SAVED?

1. Heed the warnings of God. **Heb. 3:12; 1 Cor. 10:12**
2. Study the word of God. **2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15**
3. Abstain from fleshly lusts. **Titus 2:11-13; Gal. 5:19-24; James 1:27**
4. Worship regularly. **Heb. 10:25; Matt. 18:20; John 4:24**
5. Live in accord with the gospel of Christ. **Phil. 1:27; Rom. 12:1-2**
6. Grow in Christ. **2 Pet. 1:5-9; 3:18**
7. Be faithful to the end of life. **Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9**

CAN THE SAVED FALL AWAY AND BE LOST?

1. Some had fallen from grace. **Gal. 5:1-4,13**
2. The "beloved" may be led away with error. **II Pet. 3:17**
3. A "brother" may err from the truth. **James 5:19-20**
4. Weak "brother" may perish. **I Cor. 8:11-12**
5. "Brethren" may fall into condemnation. **James 5:12**
6. A "brother" can depart and be hardened through sin. **Heb. 3:12-13**
7. Even the apostle Paul himself could have become a castaway. **1 Cor. 9:27**

Again, we encourage you to get your own Bible and read the above Bible references for yourself "to see if those things are so" (**Acts 17:11**). Beware of men because they will deceive you—"in cunning craftiness they lie in wait to deceive" (**Eph. 4:14**). "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." (**2 Cor. 11:14-15**). Therefore, always study the Bible for yourself. Accept those things found in God's Word, and boldly reject those things not found therein. Remember, the Bible is the only authority and it alone will judge us in the last day. "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (**Eph. 5:17**) May the Eternal God richly bless you in your efforts to please Him.

How To Study The Bible Written by Michael J. Walls

HONESTLY — The Bible must be studied honestly, that is without preconceived ideas. We must search for what it actually says, rather than what we think it says or what we want it to say. We should try and take a fresh look at every passage we read (**2 Timothy 4:1-4**).

REVERENTLY — These writings are from God and should be treated as such: infallible and beneficial. They are the words of truth (**John 17:17**).

DILIGENTLY — These words must be studied with intensity and continuity. We must devote ourselves to learning what the Bible teaches. This will involve time and effort on our part. (**2 Timothy 2:15—NKJV**)

SYSTEMATICALLY — Study involves much more than a daily reading (though daily reading is important!). One should work from broad outlines into fine detail when studying. Context is very important (**Luke 4:4; John 12:48**).

RESPONSIVELY — The Bible appeals to us to change our lives. We must study with the willingness to change when we find our lives and convictions to be in conflict with the word of God (**James 1:21-25**).